

Successful strategies to end homelessness in Brisbane

Thursday 4 May

Two forums in West End this Friday will showcase a number of innovative and successful strategies that have already begun the process of ending homelessness in Brisbane.

The forums feature a solid line-up of key academics and community organisations working in the area of homelessness, and celebrate the success of the 500 Lives 500 Homes Campaign in permanently housing well in excess of its target of 500 individuals and families.

Forum 1, from 11 am to 1 pm, will see Prof. Robyn Keast explain the importance of coordination and collaboration in creating a successful campaign, and some of the partners in the 500 Lives 500 Homes campaign will be on hand to share their experiences.

Forum 2, from 2 pm to 4 pm, will cover Healthcare and Homelessness, and will examine the impact of homelessness on an individual's physical and mental health.

Keynote speaker Dr Lesley van Schoubroek, Queensland's first Mental Health Commissioner, will launch "Housing First – a foundation for recovery, a mental health toolkit", and there will also be a presentation on Integrated Healthcare by the Pathways Hospital Admission and Discharge Service and a presentation on Healthcare and Supportive Housing by Dr Cameron Parsell.

Karyn Walsh, CEO of Micah Projects, said: "While we're waiting for an announcement on NPAH (National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness) Funding in next week's federal budget, a partnership of organisations working in homelessness, mental health, family and child support, domestic violence and housing services has been getting on with the job of ending homelessness here in Brisbane with strategies that have been proven to work.

"The 500 Lives 500 Homes campaign has permanently housed 580 individuals and families in three years," said Ms. Walsh. "That's a 24% reduction in family homelessness and a 32% reduction in rough sleeping, based on individuals and families registered during the campaign (2014-2017).

"Everything we do is now and always been 100% accountable," said Ms Walsh.

Both forums will take place at Souths Leagues Club, 120 Jane Street West End, and media are welcome to attend. Please contact Maria Leebeek on 0439 029 548 if attending.

More information about the forums can be found at:

<http://micahprojects.org.au/resources/fact-sheets>

More information:

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ABOUT THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Professor Robyn Keast, Research Professor, Southern Cross University

Currently a Professor in Public Management at Southern Cross University School of Business and Tourism and until recently the Chair of Collaborative Research Network: Policy and Planning for Regional Sustainability. Robyn's particular expertise is in networked arrangements and collaborative practice, including research collaboration networks.

Dr Lesley van Schoubroeck, The Queensland Mental Health Commissioner

Dr Lesley van Schoubroeck was appointed on 1 July 2013 as Queensland's first Mental Health Commissioner.

Lesley's aim is to lead a Commission that brings together the wisdom that arises from life experience and professional expertise in order to drive reform to enhance the lives of people living with mental illness or substance misuse.

Prior to taking up her role as Commissioner, Dr van Schoubroeck was the Director of Organisational Reform in Western Australia's Mental Health Commission where she led system wide reform.

Dr Cameron Parsell, Research Fellow Institute for Social Science Research

Cameron's primary area of research is homelessness and supportive housing. He has recently been awarded an Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Researcher Award to examine the interacting individual, service provision and policy dimensions to promote exits from homelessness and housing stability. Cameron is an Associate Editor of the Australian Journal of Social Issues.

He is the lead and co-chief investigator on several national studies that broadly examine the nature and outcomes of newly emerging models of intervention directed toward permanently ending homelessness.